increase private investment in construction and maintenance of road network. Some 'Grant' is also being offered on some projects to make them viable.

Accidents on National Highways in Gujarat

2036. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents occurred, persons killed and injured on National Highways in Gujarat during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that majority of these accidents were caused by heavy vehicles mainly trucks and buses;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by Government to prevent accidents on National Highways in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) As per latest information received from the Gujarat Government, the number of road accidents, person killed and injured on National Highways in Gujarat during last three years are as under:

Year	Road Accidents	Persons killed	Persons injured
1999	7758	1183	4253
2000	8113	1311	4485
2001	6949	1475	3925

(b) and (c) Data relating to accidents caused by heavy vechicles are not maintained by the Ministry.

(d) Gujarat Government have reported that they have taken the following remedial measures to prevent accidents on National Highways:

(i) To regulate delibrate overloading by truckers. Computerized check posts have operationalised at all State entry check points by R.T.O. authorities. Apart from this, constant monitoring/ checking by R.T.O. authorities goes on at various road points by R.T.O. Officials.

(ii) All District Traffic Police units have been given Doppler Radars to check over speeding by drivers.

(iii) To check excessive use of dazzling lights by drivers, due legal action under Gujarat Motor Vehicle Rules, 1988 is being taken by enforcement authorities.

(iv) To see that highway users get rest at highway points, certain areas have been demarcated as rest and parking areas on highways.

(v) Vulnerable points on highways have been earmarked and necessary road engineering measures like constructing road dividers, traffic islands, etc. have been undertaken. Mandatory road signs have been displayed at sensitive areas.

Study on Natural Rubber Modified Bitumen (NRMB)

2037. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed examination has been made of the recently reported studies on Natural Rubber Modified Bitumen (NRMB) which can save about 30 per cent road construction and maintenance cost per year, as per a new report appearing in the "Business Standard" dated 9th January, 2002;

(b) if so, the result of the examination and the policy initiative taken towards rubberisation of roads;

(c) whether the Rubber Growers and Processors Association has also made certain suggestions in this behalf; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the actions taken/proposed to be taken thereon?